

for U.S. service personnel are "the worst in the Department of Defense."

My bill provides members of the U.S. armed forces, the benefit of a tax exclusion to help offset the high cost of living and the poor quality of life while serving in South Korea and applies to personnel who execute permanent change of station orders or orders for temporary duty exceeding 30 days. Service members will be provided with an immediate boost in their quality of life as they keep more of the money they earn.

Why should we provide this benefit to our soldiers in Korea?

An unusual hardship of family separation for more than a year is borne by 94 percent of the 37,000 plus personnel who serve in Korea. Conditions are so poor for personnel that one third of those authorized to bring family members choose voluntary family separation before subjecting their families to the conditions on the peninsula.

Seoul is the third most expensive city in the world to live according to a recent United Nations survey. Despite this, our service men and women receive no cost of living allowance, COLA, for being stationed there. That means they receive no additional compensation to help offset higher costs in Korea. Working and living facilities in Korea, as well as living conditions for our service personnel are sub-standard by any measure.

Even the living quarters on post are smaller than typical military installations, and all our soldiers must live in an environmentally degraded region. Beyond cost and comfort, let's not forget that these soldiers live under the threat from an unpredictable North Korea.

It's no wonder then that those who are allowed to bring their families to Korea rarely do so and that those who are given the opportunity to command forces in Korea decline at a rate five times the normal Army wide rate.

There are many uncertainties about the future of our forces abroad as we re-examine our overseas basing and force structure. Unfortunately, discussion of overseas re-alignment may lead to further neglect of the critical quality of life and infrastructure requirements of our forces in Korea.

As we work to rectify the inequities in pay/benefits for those stationed in Korea, I believe it is so important to give our soldiers there an extra boost now. The United States Forces Korea Quality of Life Act won't fix all the hardships that our service members face in Korea, but it will give them a chance to make their life there a little better and their time there more agreeable.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in giving our soldiers in Korea the additional assistance they need and deserve.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was inadvertently detained in the Senate while attending to duties associated with my role as Chairwoman of the Civil Service Subcommittee. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" to H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 743 makes necessary changes to existing Social Security law to ensure the protection of recipients and the Social Security system. The provisions included in this bill aim to promote the accountability of the Social Security program by closing the present government pension offset (GPO) loophole. I feel that the clarifying corrections addressed in this bill will result in the improvement of the Social Security program.

#### THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

### HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the support of several of my colleagues on the Workforce Protections Subcommittee to introduce legislation designed to correct matters of fundamental unfairness in the area of workplace safety and health. Our goal is to address situations where employers, and especially small employers, are being denied fundamental fairness and/or equitable results in their efforts to defend themselves against citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, for alleged violations with which, in good faith, they take genuine issue.

This matter of fundamental fairness is achieved through several key amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This proposal targets only those situations when an employer must defend against heavy-handed or arbitrary enforcement of health and safety laws. This measure is especially targeted to help small employers who do not have the means to defend themselves against the substantial resources and formidable power of the Federal Government.

With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, the amendments we propose are designed to level the playing field so that these employers are: (1) Not deprived of their day in court due to legal technicalities; (2) not forced into settlement when they believe OSHA is wrong, just because it is the most cost-effective option available; (3) aware of the legal standards under which they will be judged; and (4) extended legal consideration for their unique situations and good-faith efforts to comply with the law.

Each reform in this proposed legislation is designed to make what I believe is a narrow, precise, and sensible adjustment for an omission regrettably not caught by Congress at the time of original passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, all of the provisions in this legislation lend themselves to bipartisan support, and I ask each of my colleagues to support this proposal.

#### A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF FRANCES DIANE SMITH

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my

grandchild, Frances Smith, born on November 4, 1998. My wife, Bonnie, and I join with Frances' other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this young life.

Three days after Frances was born, John Glenn returned from his second trip into space at 76 years of age. Medical futurists predict that a person born in 1998 may very well live to an age of 110 or even 120 years old.

The system of free enterprise in our country makes it possible for Frances Smith, and all our children and grandchildren, to make dreams a reality.

As we stand in this chamber each day we must remember the potential of our youth and the strength of the free enterprise system. Those two things, bonded together, will continue the tradition of prosperity we have so long enjoyed.

It is my hope that Frances Smith, the daughter of Brad and Diane, will never forget the achievements possible through the free enterprise system that can take us much further than John Glenn ever dreamed we could go.

#### REVISED COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 21, THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING FUNDING PROHIBITION ACT

### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a revised cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This revised estimate, dated April 2, 2003, describes the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the legislation. The CBO's estimate of its impact on the Federal budget and on State and local governments is unchanged.

The original estimate was included in the Committee's report on H.R. 21 (H. Rept. 108-51, Part I) and was dated March 27, 2003.

APRIL 2, 2003.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed revised cost estimate for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This cost estimate supersedes the previous estimate. The cost estimate provided to the committee on March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by H.R. 21. Our estimate of the bill's impact on the federal budget and on state and local governments is unchanged.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Mark Hadley (for federal costs), and Cecil McPherson (for the impact on the private sector).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,  
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 21—Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act

Summary: H.R. 21 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit cards,